

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9353

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04104

EXDIS

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, UK

SUBJECT: CSCE: NATO SUMMIT -- BREZHNEV LETTER

REF: (A) STATE 58959 (B) USNATO 1435 (NOTAL) (C) LONDON
4008 (D) BONN 4247

1. ON MARCH 17, WE CALLED ON HUNTER OF FCO TO FOLLOW UP
ON HIS PROMISE TO GIVE US A REPORT ON MINISTERIAL-LEVEL
CONVERSATIONS ON CSCE IN DUBLIN (REF. C.). HE SAID UK
RECORDS ARE SPARSE BUT HE CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN
A STRONG UNDERCURRENT OF DESIRE TO MOVE AHEAD TO CONCLU-
SION OF STAGE II. HE SAID POINT OF MOST INTEREST WAS
DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE EC SUMMIT MEETING BEFORE CSCE SUM-
MIT IF WARSAW PACT HOLDS HEADS-OF-STATE MEETING. HUNTER
SAID THIS DOES NOT REFLECT OFFICIAL BRITISH POLICY WHICH
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IS THAT NATO, NOT EC, SHOULD BE FOCUS OF WESTERN ACTIVIT-

IES IN CSCE. THUS BRITISH HAVE SUGGESTED THAT MAY 29-30
NATO MINISTERIAL MIGHT BE RAISED TO SUMMIT LEVEL TO DIS-
CUSS CSCE.

2. WE INDICATED THAT MAY 29-30 MIGHT WELL BE TOO EARLY
FOR USEFUL WESTERN SUMMIT DISCUSSIONS OF CSCE IN VIEW OF
EXPECTED HARD NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD
STILL BE IN PROGRESS AT THAT TIME. HUNTER CONCURRED.
HIS PERSONAL VIEW IS THAT THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY THE
DATE FOR NATO SUMMIT COULD, AND PROBABLY WILL, SLIP PAST
MAY. WE TAKE IT THAT THE BRITISH WILL NOT FIGHT STRONGLY
FOR THEIR SUGGESTED DATES.

3. ON BREZHNEV LETTERS, HUNTER CONFIRMED REPORT IN PARA
1, REF. (B) THAT UK WANTS TO COORDINATE GENERAL LINE BUT
NOT DETAILS OF ALLIED RESPONSES. UK INTENDS TO MAKE ITS
ANSWER FIT FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

A. REPLY WILL BE POSITIVE IN TONE.

B. REPLY WILL NOT BE SO FIRM ON THE IDEA OF A
TARGET DATE AS TO GIVE AWAY THE LAST WESTERN LEVER FOR
USE TO GAIN SOVIET CONCESSIONS ON SUBSTANCE.

C. REPLY WILL HINT THAT JUNE 30 IS "A LITTLE
EARLY" FOR TARGET DATE.

4. WE PRESSED HUNTER AS TO WHETHER BRITISH FEEL THAT
IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS SHOULD BE LISTED IN REPLIES PER PARA
3, REF. (D). HE (AND, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, SOVIET
DEPARTMENT HEAD CARTLEDGE) STRESSED THAT BRITISH WOULD
NOT INCLUDE SPECIFIC ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE IN ALLIED RESP-
ONSES. HMG FEARS THAT SOVIETS MIGHT REPLY TO SUCH POINTS
BY ANOTHER LETTER ADDRESSING THEM AND THUS BE IN A POSI-
TION TO SAY ALL SUBSTANTIAL ISSUES SOLVED. HMG DOES NOT
WISH THIS TO OCCUR. HUNTER SAID REPORTS OF UK "4 POINTS"
MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONFUSED INTERPRETATION OF BRITISH 3 PO-
INTS MENTIONED PARA 3 ABOVE.

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